JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:

Family Court, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

1. NAME:

Mr. Bryan W. Braddock

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

2231 W. Palmetto St.

Suite 203

Florence, SC 29503

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(office): 843-292-8780

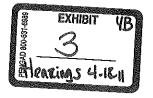
2. Date of Birth:

1973

Place of Birth:

Florence, South Carolina

- 3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes
- 5. Family Status: Married on June 8, 2002, to Dusty Renae Spring Braddock. Never divorced; two children.
- 6. Have you served in the military? No.
- 7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) North Carolina State University, 1991-92; transferred
 - (b) College of Charleston, 1992-95; BS, Political Science; Minors: Sociology, Criminal Justice, International Affairs with a Focus on Russian and the Former Soviet Union
- 8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state. South Carolina, 1998
- 9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
 - (a) North Carolina State University Formal Brass Quintet, Fall 1991;
 - (b) College of Charleston Pep Band, 1992-95;
 - (c) College of Charleston Jazz Band, 1992-95;
 - (d) Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Fraternity, College of Charleston Chapter, 1994-95;
 - (e) Tutor, Cities in Schools Program, 1993-95.
- Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.
 Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.



Conference/CLE Name		Date(s)
(a)	2010 SCAJ Annual Convention	8/5/2010;
(b)	Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with Judges	4/29/2010;
(c)	Understanding/Defending DUI Cases	4/9/2010;
(d)	Training for Attorneys Appointed in Abuse	
	and Neglect Cases; 12th Judicial Circuit	1/15/2010;
(e)	2009 SCAJ Annual Convention	8/6/2009;
(f)	2008 SCAJ Annual Convention	8/7/2008;
(g)	Family Law: Helping Your Client Through Difficult Cases	12/03/07;
(h)	2007 SCTLA Annual Convention	08/02/07;
(i)	Hot Tops (Domestics)	09/22/06;
(j)	Mandatory ADR Training	09/08/06;
(k)	2006 SCTLA Annual Convention	08/03/06;
(I)	2005 SCTLA Annual Convention	08/04/05;
(m)	Attorney ECF Training	01/07/05.

- 11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
 - (a) Better Organize Divorce Cases for Trial, presented for NBI, 12/03/2007;
 - (b) Use of Web-based software in family court practices; SCAJ Hilton Head Convention, August, 2009;
 - (c) Family Court Case Law Updates, SCAJ Hilton Head Convention, August 2010:
 - (d) Family Court Case Law Updates, SCAJ Hilton Head Convention, [scheduled for] August 2011.
- 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. None.
- 13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
 - (a) South Carolina State Bar, November 16, 1998;
 - (b) South Carolina District Court, April 12, 2000.
- 14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
 - (a) Clerk for the Honorable Paul M. Burch, August 1998- August 1999; Circuit Court Clerk;
 - (b) Saleeby & Cox, P.A., Associate Attorney, October 1999- August 2005; Practice Areas: Domestics: 50%; Personal Injury: 30%; Criminal/Traffic: 15%; Miscellaneous: 5%;
 - (c) Darlington County Public Defender's Office: Part-time Public Defender, 2000-01;

(d) Young, Miller, & Braddock, LLC, Full Partner, August 2005- Present; Practice Areas: Domestics: 80%; Personal Injury/Workers' Compensation: 10%; Criminal/Traffic: 10%.

If you are a judge and <u>are not seeking a different type of judgeship</u>, the following questions are inapplicable:

- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.
- (a) Divorce/Annulment/Common Law Marriages: I have prosecuted and defended cases involving every actionable ground for divorce. I have been successful in having Court find common law marriages. I have successfully argued for annulments.
- (b) Equitable Division of Property: I have been involved in equitable divisions including arguments of marital versus non-marital status of property, arguments of constructive trusts, arguments for special interest trusts, division of defined benefit and defined contribution retirement plans, and cases in which both real property and personal property appraisers were utilized.
- (c) Child Custody: I have successfully obtained custody for fathers, mothers, step-fathers, grandparents, distant family members, and psychological parents. I have been involved in cases involving various experts, including counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists.
- (d) Adoptions/TPRs: I have handled cases involving the voluntary and involuntary termination of parental rights. I have handled adoptions for family members, step-parents, and unrelated third parties. I have handled private adoption and special needs adoptions.
- (e) Abuse and Neglect: I have handled hundreds of DSS Abuse and Neglect cases alleging all levels of abuse. I recently participated in a case in which an orthopedist and a pediatric orthopedist were deposed, and the matter had to be tried over a full day, preventing DSS from obtaining a finding against my client. I handled a case from the very beginning, through the involuntary TPR stage, and through the appeal to the Court of Appeals.
- (f) Juvenile Justice: As a private attorney and during my brief stint as a part-time Public Defender, I have handled dozens of DJJ cases, possibly over a hundred.
- 15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, <u>Best Lawyers</u>, <u>Chambers</u>, <u>Legal 500</u>, <u>Martindale-Hubbell</u>, <u>Who's Who Legal</u>, <u>Super Lawyers</u>, <u>etc.</u>? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

I am not aware of any current rating by Martindale-Hubbell. At one time, I believe I was rated "BV". However, my current firm does not advertise with Martindale-Hubbell, as we did not find it to be an effective tool for obtaining clients, and I have therefore not been contacted by Martindale-Hubbell about participating in their peer review process.

- 16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?
 - (a) federal: 1%;
 - (b) state: 99%.
- 17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?
 - (a) civil:
- 15%;
- (b) criminal:
- 10%;
- (c) domestic:
- 75%;
- (d) other:
- 0%.
- 18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
 - (a) jury:
- 15%;
- (b) non-jury:
 - v: 85%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole Counsel

- 19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
 - (a) Windell Brown vs. Cynthia Brown cases: During a series of separate cases between these parties, I argued for a termination of child support based upon the emancipation of the minor daughter, against a Risinger claim filed on behalf of that same child, for two transfers of the custody of another child of the parties, for child support and alimony modifications, and for the termination of permanent, periodic alimony based upon continued cohabitation of the Defendant with a paramour.
 - (b) Wright Adoption: An adoption case in which I represented the adopting parties in involuntarily terminating the parental rights of the two parents, one of whom became psychologically incapacitated during the pendency of the case. During the pendency of the case, my clients also lost one of their biological children in an automobile accident and eventually separated while the adoption was still pending. I was able to complete the adoption despite these circumstances.
 - (c) State versus Dontell McDaniels: Murder trial on which I worked for over three years. I was appointed counsel and worked on this case with the assistance of a private investigator retained with OID funds. I had the opportunity to visit the crime scene and personally interview numerous witnesses. The case was tried against a senior member of the South

- Carolina Attorney General's Office, and I was able to obtain a plea of ten (10) years for my client on the third day of trial.
- (d) Amerson Divorce: After lengthy and hotly contested litigation, I was able to obtain my client a divorce on the Defendant's habitual drunkenness and get her an award of equitable division, compensating her for the various items of personal property the Defendant sold off during the separation. After the Defendant managed to get access to his retirement account and liquidate it, I was thru contempt proceedings able to obtain an order placing the Defendant in jail, ordering his brother to return all the money he was holding in trust for his brother, order a bank to freeze various accounts, and ordering the Clerk of Court to sign a deed transferring title to the marital residence,
- Johnson Divorce: In this case, the other party's parents had built the (e) marital home and sold it to the parties for about 30% of its fair market value. However, my client had also paid the proceeds from the sale of his pre-marital home to his in-laws. When they divorced, the other party tried to claim a special equity interest in the home, basically claiming that 70% of the equity in the home should be hers alone based upon the contribution of her family. I was able to defeat this claim. I also was able to get the Court to use my appraiser's value for the home and, after the other party tried to claim that there were only \$7,500 in marital personal property, I was able to use a personal property appraiser to show that the correct value was approximately \$25,000. In addition to this successful argument regarding the equitable distribution, I was able to gain enough visitation for my client as the secondary custodian of the minor children that he actually received child support from the other party, the primary custodian, due to the discrepancy in incomes.
- 20. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).

South Carolina Department of Social Services vs. Marggie Hutson, Eliseo Perez, and Landin Nuan Perez, from the Family Court; Unpublished Opinion No. 2006-UP-238; filed May 15, 2006

- 21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter). None.
- 22. Have you ever held judicial office? No.
- 24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? No.

- 25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor. N/A.
- 26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? No.
- 27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? No.
- 28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? None, other than my law firm.
- 29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
- 30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None.
- 31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law?
- 32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
- 33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.
- 34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?

In late 2010, I was a Defendant in a lawsuit against myself, my partner, and our law firm based upon an unpaid loan which was taken out by the firm while our third partner was still living and practicing with us. We allowed a judgment against ourselves and the firm for the outstanding balance of the loan in the amount of \$123,000.00. We are currently in negotiations with the bank to resolve the judgment in the coming months.

I have never been sued personally in a professional capacity, nor has any firm with which I have been employed or a partner been sued directly related to my conduct or omissions.

- 36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No.
- 37. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? No.

- 38. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? No.
- 39. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.
- 40. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.
- 41. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. None.
- 42. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None.
- 43. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No.
- 44. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
- 45. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
- 46. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No.
- 47. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
 - (a) South Carolina Bar Association;
 - (b) Darlington County Bar;
 - (c) Florence County Bar;
 - (d) South Carolina Association for Justice: Board of Governors (2008-Notification of Candidacy for this position), Legislative Planning Steering

Committee (Family Court Representative; 2008- Notification of Candidacy for this position).

- 48. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
 - (a) Loyal Order of the Moose; Trustee (2002-03);
 - (b) Moose Legion;
 - (c) College of Charleston Alumni Association.
- 49. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.

It is my goal to become a Family Court Judge. I am not running for this position because I want to be a Circuit Court Judge. I am not running for this position because I want to run for some political office some day. I am running for this office neither because I am tired of practicing law nor because my career and/or practice is at a crossroads.

I am running for the position of a South Carolina Family Court Judge because I believe this would provide the greatest opportunity to have a positive impact on as many people as possible; because I believe my attitude and demeanor would have a positive effect on both the parties and practitioners appearing before me; because I believe that our Family Court system is the most equitable and just part of our judicial system; and because I want to retire someday having had the fullest impact on as many people of all ages as possible.

- 50. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five persons, including your banker, from whom references could be obtained.
 - (a) Pastor Patricia Warden
 2236 Bethlehem Road
 Hartsville, South Carolina, 29550
 843-332-7833
 - (b) Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Esquire 2917 W. Palmetto Street Florence, South Carolina, 29503 843-665-8187
 - (c) Kevin M. Barth, Esquire
 Post Office Box 107
 Florence, South Carolina, 29202
 843-662-6301
 - (d) John S. Nichols, Esquire 1614 Taylor Street Columbia, South Carolina, 29202 803-779-7599

(e) William B. Varn , President/CEO of SPC Credit Union PO Box 1355,
Hartsville, South Carolina 29551
843-383-0090

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature:

Bryan W. Braddock

Date:

March 4, 2011